

Madison County Interagency Coordination Meeting  
January 24, 2008

The Madison County Interagency Coordination Meeting was held January 24, 2008 with the following attending:

Dave Schulz	Madison County Commissioner
Jim Hart	Madison County Commissioner
Marilyn Ross	Madison County Commissioner
Charity Fechter	Madison County Planner
Don Copple	DNRC
Tim Egan	DNRC
Ryan Gosse	FWP
Tim Bozorth	BLM
Rich Maggio	BLM
Tom Pruitt	Fish and Wildlife Service, Ennis Fish Hatchery
Mark Petroni	Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Dave Schulz—Updated the group on the County's efforts to ensure the entire County is covered by a fire department. Virginia City and Alder have started the process to cover the unassigned areas near those communities. Bridge access lawsuit will likely be heard in July. Ennis Airport runway will be extended 1900 feet at a cost of approximately \$3.3 million, private donations will chip in another \$800,000 to cover the cost of the project. Road issues, including snow plowing, purchase of a new grader and access north from the top of Virginia City Hill was discussed.

Don Copple – Mentioned a planned Line Officer Meeting to discuss appropriate Management Response.

Tim Egan—Has been Dillon DNRC manager since December 2007. DNRC will be hiring two wardens to enforce regulations on State Land. DNRC will hold fire training at Alder, Ennis and Harrison. State has leased land on Norris hill to the wind energy speculators. State has closed a section north of Sheridan to rifle hunting and is considering a waste water treatment facility on that property. The section is still open to archery hunting.

Jim Hart—Mentioned improvements completed at the shop in Ennis. County is considering replacing Varney Bridge. County has appointed a committee to assess options for a law and justice center.

Marilyn Ross—County has hired a research analyst to research the status of roads in the County.

Tim Bozorth—BLM is involved in the energy project on Norris Hill. Tim mentioned the Interoperational communication project and the need to assess options for repeater sites Virginia City Hill and the Ruby Mountains were mentioned as possible locations. BLM is working with FWP to issue special recreation permits to outfitters on the Madison River. BLM will hire 4 weed laborers, two for the Madison and two for the Tobacco Roots. Tobacco Roots project will include burning, timber sales and 4000 acres of riparian treatment. Juniper control with herbicide is also being considered. More burning is planned in the Ruby Mountains.

Charity Fechter—Jim Jarvis has been hired as an assistant planner. Stream side set backs are being considered by the county. A meeting is planned for Ennis January 30, 2008.

Tom Pruitt—The Ennis Hatchery is getting used to doing less with less. The kids fishing pond planting will be very limited this year due to funding shortages. Local ponds will be stocked but not those outside SW Montana. Ennis Hatchery is working with the Sun Ranch Hatchery to develop a source for west slope cutthroat trout. Stream side incubators have been successful in the effort.

Mark Petroni—The Forest Plan will be released in the next couple of weeks. Three lawsuits have affected projects on the Madison District including Cow Fly Timber Sale, Antelope Basin Grazing and Meadow Creek Fuel Reduction. A landowner has threatened to close the Indian Creek Trail. Madison District is working on travel planning. The Sun Ranch Conservation Easement is nearing completion. Madison District is working with FWP to burn the Bear Creek Wildlife Management Area. Madison District is working with Ruby Watershed Committee to improve water quality in the Ruby Drainage.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM. Tom Pruitt led a very informative tour of the Hatchery.

Next meeting scheduled for April 24 in Alder